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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

624

FROM : AmEmbassy, San José

613
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 9, 1954.
DATE

REF : Embtel 72, January 28, 1954.

INCO AKA S/S GSPC FERD/L 1954 OLI CIA P I

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	AKA-4	De/R-2 REP-2 S/S-2 G-1 P-1 E-1
	REC'D 2/12	INFO OTHER CIA-7 USIA-10 LAB-3

SUBJECT: ORIT Statement on Guatemalan Situation.

Luis Alberto MONGE, Secretary General of ORIT, left San José for Mexico City on February 9. During the course of a lengthy conversation with Mr. Monge on the eve of his departure, the following information was gathered:

He had received a cablegram from Serafino ROMAULDI, informing him that the substance of Professor ALEXANDER's report on conditions in Guatemala was such as to warrant ORIT going ahead with the issuance of a public statement on the subject.

Mr. Monge stated that he did not as yet want to issue this statement because he feared that some of the labor organizations affiliated with ORIT with nationalistic tendencies would be bound to misinterpret any statement on the subject, no matter how carefully drafted and that this in turn would redound to the benefit of Guatemala rather than the free world. He added, however that he was proceeding from Mexico to South America (Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Brazil) on February 22 and that during the course of this trip he contemplated discussing the subject in person with the leaders of labor organizations who might be expected to react unfavorably to the proposed ORIT declaration. Once this has been done, he is willing to publicly release the statement.

He stated that while in the United States and in Central America everyone is fully aware of the Guatemalan problem; in South America, on the other hand, the public and labor are quite ignorant of the true conditions and he felt that he could change this situation, at least as far as the principal leaders of labor organizations affiliated with ORIT are concerned, by the personal contact he would establish during his thirty-day trip.

For the Ambassador:

Alex A. Cohen
Attaché

CC: MID

AACohen:mjf
REPORTER

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MAR 5 1954

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